



United States Breastfeeding
COMMITTEE
PROTECTING • PROMOTING • SUPPORTING

Public Comments [60Day-09-0743] on the Assessment and
Monitoring of Breastfeeding-Related Maternity Care Practices in
Intra-partum Care Facilities in the United States and Territories
(OMB Control No. 0920-0743, Exp. 7/31/2009)

March 13, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC), I strongly urge the renewal of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care* (mPINC) survey. As you know, despite governmental recommendations, national health outcome targets, mounting scientific evidence, and national promotion campaigns, breastfeeding rates in the United States continue to fall short of national goals.

While completing the initial mPINC survey provided a *snapshot* of maternity practices in the U.S. (and found widespread use of maternity practices that are *not* evidence-based and are known to interfere with breastfeeding), it will be a waste of taxpayer money and a wasted opportunity to promote the health of mothers and babies if the survey is not continued. It is only with the information provided by ongoing data collection that maternity care facilities will be able to set quality improvement goals and benchmark with similar facilities in their states and across the country to improve breastfeeding care.

Of particular note is that one of the National Quality Forum's 15 Perinatal Measures includes "exclusive breastfeeding at hospital discharge." With more pressure on maternity facilities to report breastfeeding outcomes as a measure of quality, the ability to benchmark maternity practices and share best practices across the nation becomes more important than ever.

The USBC is a collaborative coalition of organizations, representing governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and health professional associations. Guided by its mission to improve the Nation's health by working collaboratively to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding, the USBC continues to work to achieve the Healthy People 2010 national breastfeeding goals.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Younger Meek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joan Younger Meek, MD, MS, RD, FAAP, FABM, IBCLC
Chair
United States Breastfeeding Committee